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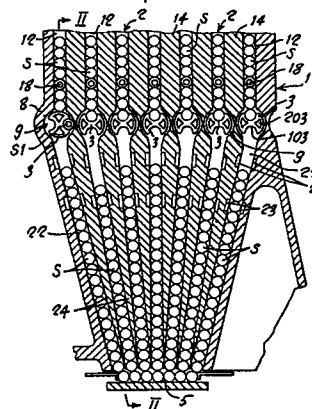
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54 **Cigarette quality control device.**

57 The invention relates to the devices for any cigarette quality control to be effected at the hopper (1) for the cigarette feeding to a cigarette-packing machine. In its lower section, this hopper comprises a plurality of cigarette-guiding down channels (2) set side by side, which are adapted for containing each only one individual pile of cigarette (S) so as to allow them to slide downwards, and which are directed toward an underlying chamber within which a cigarette batch consisting of at least one layer of cigarettes set side by side will be formed. By a pusher member (7) or the like, this cigarette batch will be ejected therefrom at intervals, to be transferred to the cigarette-packing machine. Near each one of the said cigarette-guiding channels (2), cigarette-inspection sensor means are provided either on one or on both of the cigarette end sides, the said sensor means being responsive to the cigarette property to be checked and controlling cigarette ejection means which are adapted for ejecting and discarding any defective cigarette found out by the cigarette-inspection sensor means. In each one of the cigarette-guiding channels (2) there is provided, according to the invention, a rotary cigarette-transfer device (3) that separates the respective cigarette-guiding channel (2) into one upper section (12) and one lower section (22). The cigarette-inspection sensor means (18) are arranged in correspondence of the upper section (12) of the cigarette-

guiding channels (2) and are associated with at least one cigarette position in this upper section (12) of said channels. Every rotary cigarette-transfer device is so constructed, and so operated by the respective cigarette inspection sensor or sensors (18), that it transfers every regular cigarette (S) from the upper section (12) to the lower section (22) of a cigarette-guiding channel (2), whereas it moves any defective cigarette (S1) into an intermediate position where the cigarette-ejection means are provided.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³)
D, A	GB-A-2 073 576 (SERAGNOLI) * Whole document *	1	B 65 B 19/28
A	FR-A-2 124 860 (MOLINS) * Page 2, line 36 - page 4, line 4; figures 1,2; page 8, lines 5-31 * -----	1, 2, 4, 7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³)
			B 65 B A 24 C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14-03-1984	Examiner CLAEYS H.C.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	